

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that, in certain embodiments, the inner and outer wall components are bonded via a polytetrafluoroethylene layer which is disposed therebetween. Support for these claim amendments can be found in the specification on pages 7 and 13, and in original claims 1 and 11. Attached hereto is a page entitled "Marked-up Changes to the Claims" showing a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims.

Furthermore, new claims 29, 30 and 31 have been added. Claim 29 is directed to embodiments of the claimed invention wherein the inner wall and outer wall components are co-extruded. Claim 30 is directed to embodiments wherein the inner wall component, outer wall component, and the layer of PTFE are co-extruded. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification on page 7, lines 6-14; and pages 12-13. New claim 31 is directed to embodiments of the claimed invention wherein the inner wall component is substantially free of inorganic filler. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 6, lines 14-26; page 7, lines 1-5; page 12, lines 9-21; and in Example 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 18-23, directed to the method aspects of the invention, were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner's Office Action mailed March 16, 2000. Applicants will cancel these claims from the present application once the remaining claims are deemed by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter.

II. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention is directed to a motion transmitting cable assembly which comprises an abrasion resistant tubular article and a motion transmitting core disposed within the tubular article. Importantly, the tubular article comprises an outer wall component, comprising polytetrafluoroethylene and an inorganic filler, which is disposed around and **bonded** to an inner wall component comprising polytetrafluoroethylene. In certain preferred embodiments, the inner wall and outer wall components are bonded to one another by the process of co-extruding these components (see new claims 29 and 30).

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Frederiksen (CA 1,254,110) in light of Giatras (U.S. Pat. No. 4,362,069) and Greuel (U.S. Pat. No. 5,922,425). More specifically, the Examiner stated Frederiksen shows a conduit for motion-transmitting cables having a liner within which a cable moves freely and an outer sheath made of plastic. In addition, the Examiner noted Giatras shows inner liners made of polytetrafluoroethylene ("PTFE") and Greuel teaches multilayer articles comprising PTFE which are useful in making tubing. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the Giatras material as the liner and the Greuel material as the outer sheath in the Frederiksen conduit. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

IV. THE CITED REFERENCES DO NOT SUGGEST THE CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner fail teach or suggest the use of an outer PTFE component which is **bonded** to an inner PTFE component as recited by claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's rejection relies primarily on Frederiksen which discloses a conduit device having an inner liner 24 and a plastic outer sheath 30 that are clearly separated by a wire sheath 26 and a nylon winding 28. Frederiksen makes plain that wire sheath 26 extends along and is "wrapped tightly about inner liner 24," and that the wires of sheath 26 are prevented from "spreading with respect to each other." (column 10, ll. 15-20; Fig. 1). Because outer sheath 30 is engaged over sheath 26 (as well as winding 28 which is wrapped around sheath 26), it is effectively shielded from any contact with inner liner 24 by both sheath 26 and winding 28. Accordingly, there can be no direct bond between the outer sheath 30 and inner layer 24 in the conduit device of Frederiksen.

Furthermore, there is no teaching in Frederiksen of either sheath 26 or winding 28 acting to bind outer sheath 30 to liner 24. In fact, Frederiksen clearly teaches that sheath 26 is not bonded to liner 24. On the contrary, Frederiksen teaches that sheath 26 is held in intimate contact with liner 24 only by wrapping winding 28 and placing outer sheath 30 therearound to maintain the "fixed spatial relationship" of winding 28, sheath 26, and liner

24. (column 10, ll. 35-36, column 11, ll. 1-2; column 13, ll. 28-32). Sheath 26 is not held to liner 24 via any bond formed therebetween and, consequently, outer sheath 28 cannot be bonded to liner 24 through sheath 26.

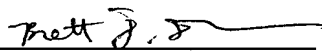
There is nothing in any of Examiner's secondary references which overcomes the deficiencies of Frederiksen. More specifically, Gruel and Giatras are both devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the use of an inner PTFE layer which is bonded to an outer PTFE layer. Accordingly, in light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

V. CONCLUSION

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is urged that the present application be allowed. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice amended) A motion transmitting cable assembly comprising an abrasion resistant tubular article and a motion transmitting core moveably disposed within the tubular article, said tubular article comprising an inner wall component and an outer wall component, [disposed therearound]

wherein [the] said inner wall component comprises polytetrafluoroethylene, [and wherein the] said outer wall component comprises polytetrafluoroethylene and an inorganic filler, and said outer wall component is disposed around and bonded to said inner wall component.

11. (Twice amended) The assembly of claim 4 [further comprising] wherein said inner wall component and said outer wall component are bonded via a layer of polytetrafluoroethylene disposed [between the inner wall and the outer wall of the tubular article] therebetween.